

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03 AEC-11

AECE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-14 OIC-04 DRC-01

CCO-00 /147 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4769

SECDEF FLASH

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 3810

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USNATO 1590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR TRILATERAL AND ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A. STATE 57521 B. STATE 57192

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTELS, WE CONTACTED UK AND FRG DELEGATIONS TO CONVEY U.S. VIEW ON HANDLING TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ISSUE IN NATO. WE SUGGESTED AN INFORMAL, LOW-KEY APPROACH, LEAVING IT TO OTHER ALLIES TO SEEK US OUT AND NOT REPEAT NOT VOLUNTEERING, UNLESS PRESSED, THAT TALKS INVOLVED NUCLEAR ASPECTS.

2. BRITISH DEL RECEIVED URGENT INSTRUCTIONS THIS AFTERNOON AND CONVENED A MEETING WITH FRG AND U.S. REPS. BRITISH DCM (LOGAN) OUTLINED LONDON'S RECOMMENDED APPROACH. WHILE THE UK HAD STRONGLY FAVORED MAXIMUM SECRECY IN HOLDING THESE TALKS, NOW THAT THE FACT OF THE TRLATERALS WAS IN THE PUBLIC SECRET

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DOMAIN, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO COME CLEAN WITH THE OTHER ALLIES. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD AROUSE ALLIED SUSPICIONS AND UNDERMINE THE REMARKABLE COHESIVENESS WHICH THE ALLIANCE HAS DESMONSTRATED THUS FAR ON MBFR. WHEN MISSION OFFICER NOTED THAT TALKS, IN

FACT, DEALT EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS, LOGAN BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS A FURTHER REASON FOR INFORMING THE ALLIES, SINCE THEY WOULD NOT FIND IT SUPRPRISING THAT THE U.S., UK AND FRG, INVIEW OF THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS, WOULD CHOOSE TO CONSULT PRIVATELY BEFORE RAISING THE NUCLEAR ISSUE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS IN THE ALLIANCE. SPECIFICALLY, THE UK BELIEVES THAT THE BEST LINE TO TAKE WITH THE OTHER ALLIES PARTICIPATING IN MBFR SHOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS WAS TO CONSIDER THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF MBFR ON THE BASIS OF THE U.S. PAPER OF 30 APRIL 1973;

(B) THE MEETING WAS PURELY EXPLORATORY. THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF ARRIVING AT CONCLUSIONS AND NO CONCLUSIONS WERE IN FACT REACHED;

(C) THE COUNCIL REMAINS THE FORUM FOR POLICY DECISIONS ON MBFR. WE HOPE THAT THE INFORMAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON WILL HAVE HELPED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL IN DUE COURSE BE NECESSARY AMONG ALL THE ALLIES PARTICIPATING IN MBFR.

3. FRG DCM (BOSS) SAID THAT, WHILE HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER THIS NEW BRITISH SUGGESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES, BONN'S PRESENT HINK-ING WAS TO HANDLE THIS QUESTION IN AS LOW-KEY A WAY AS POSSIBLE. HE THOUGHT THE U.S. SHOULD PROVIDE SOME EXPLANATION OF THE TRILATERALS ONLY IF ASKED, AND HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT BONN'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARDS MENTIONING THE NUCLEAR ELEMENTS SPECIFICALLY. NEITHER HE NOR LOGAN OBJECTED TO PRESS GUIDANCE IN REF B. THREE DELS WILL MEET AGAIN MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 25.

4. COMMENT: REQUEST GUIDANCE. END COMMENT. RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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